

Job Description: Researcher

Social Life is a social enterprise, set up in 2012 by the Young Foundation.

Our mission is to reconnect placemaking with the everyday experience of people and neighbourhoods. We work with local authorities, housing associations, developers and community groups, putting people's lived experience at the heart of the way cities, towns and new developments are planned, developed and managed.

What we do:

- we carry out research in local communities to understand their strengths and challenges and develop recommendations for practical action
- we use research to assess the impact of development, regeneration or other interventions, and create frameworks to understand and measure change
- we carry out practical projects that engage people in different ways of shaping their neighbourhoods, collaboratively and creatively
- we experiment with mapping and other ways of visualising the insights that we generate.

We are looking for two energetic, creative and efficient people with a strong commitment to the type of work we do to become our new researchers:

- **one researcher with broad research experience, including qualitative and quantitative research**
- **one researcher with an urban design/architecture background who also has experience of participatory and collaborative working with local communities.**

Given current uncertainties, these jobs are being offered on six-month contracts, we hope to be able to extend this after the first period. The posts will be based at Social Life's offices in Elephant & Castle, some home-working will be possible but office working will be expected at least two days a week (when COVID-19 regulations allow) to make sure we work together well as a team.

The job will include:

- working on a range of research projects, including developing research materials, coordinating and carrying out research activities such as street interviews, stakeholder interviews and focus groups, and data analysis
- carrying out participatory and collaborative activities with communities, working with the team to facilitate workshops and events to bring everyday experience into the process of planning, designing and managing local areas
- contributing to reports, written documents, websites and digital media
- project managing and taking responsibility for small projects and initiatives, such as Social Life events
- alongside the wider team, taking part in the day to day management and administration of the office.

We are looking for people with:

- a good understanding of Social Life's work and what motivates us
- knowledge of planning, urbanism, housing, the community sector, or another related field of Social Life's work
- qualitative research experience
- experience of project management
- excellent written and verbal communication skills
- the ability to deal sensitively with challenging situations and stakeholders
- good MS office skills
- someone who can work collaboratively in our small friendly team.

The following skills and experience would also be desirable but are not essential:

- quantitative research, statistical analysis and survey design (including knowledge of SPSS)
- data mapping (including knowledge of QGIS)
- design skills (including knowledge InDesign and other Adobe tools)
- knowledge and experience of evaluation methodologies
- co-design and participatory approaches to research and community engagement.

We are very interested in receiving applications from people who live in the places we are working, and from people from black and ethnic minority communities as they are currently underrepresented in our team.

We can offer:

- an opportunity to develop your research skills and experience working on a range of projects across London and possibly further afield
- a friendly supportive working environment
- a salary of £25,000 to £30,000 (pro rata), depending on experience
- flexibility, we would consider a four or five day working week.

May 2021